

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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Chairman Davis to Convene Hearing on Flu Vaccine Shortage Upon Return from Investigative Trip to UK

What: Government Reform Committee Oversight Hearing:
"The Nation's Flu Shot Shortage: Where Are We Today, and How Prepared Are We for Tomorrow?"

When: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2004, 1:00 P.M.

Where: ROOM 2154, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Background:

The Government Reform Committee tomorrow will conduct its third hearing this year into the nation's flu vaccine program, with testimony from federal health officials, outside experts and industry representatives, including the President and CEO of Chiron Corporation.

In advance of the hearing, Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) and four staff members from the Majority and Minority offices of the Government Reform Committee spent last week in London meeting with officials from the British Department of Health, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), and with representatives of two companies, MedImmune and Chiron.

On October 5, 2004, British health authorities suspended Chiron from manufacturing its influenza vaccine, Fluvirin, for three months – a suspension that meant Chiron could not send its expected shipment of flu shots (46 to 48 million doses) to the United States this year.

Chiron President and CEO Howard Pien has agreed to testify before the Committee to update Congress and the public on what steps Chiron is taking to remediate its Liverpool facility and receive permission to produce and export its vaccine in time for next year's flu season.

WITNESSES

Panel One:

Dr. Julie L. Gerberding, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Dr. Lester M. Crawford, Acting Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration

Panel Two:

Mr. Howard Pien, President and Chief Executive Officer, Chiron Corporation

Ms. Kathleen Coelingh, Senior Director, Regulatory and Scientific Affairs, Medimmune, Inc.

Dr. Robert Stroube, Virginia State Health Commissioner, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Dr. Jerome Klein, Professor of Pediatrics, Boston University School of Medicine

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